

## **Work Plan for 2003 RCA Regional Office**

Prepared for Report at the  
25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Colombo in May 2003

### **I. General**

- At the 31<sup>st</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting in Vienna on 18 September 2002, it was proposed that the RCA Regional Office (hereinafter referred to RCARO) formulate a work plan for 2003 and table it at the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives.
- In this regard, the Work Plan for 2003 has been duly prepared and is set out in this document. The Work Plan that was prepared by the RCARO was initially examined by Australia and reviewed by the Advisory Committee in May 2003 prior to the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives..

### **II. Current Progress**

- The RCARO was officially inaugurated on 27 March 2002 in Daejeon, Korea in association with the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives and in celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCA Agreement.
- The RCARO has been functioning well since its inception with four full-time staff plus two temporary staff. The RCARO is being operated as an interim measure for an initial two to three years. During this interim operational period, necessary legal provisions for the RCARO will be made.
- The operating cost for 2003 for the RCARO is approximately US\$ 500,000 and is being provided by the Korean government.

### **III. Basic Tasks for 2003**

- The basic tasks for the Office in 2003 are to lay down stepping stones for the Office to enter into mandate. To this effect, the RCARO plans to complete related legal provisions needed for the RCARO and strengthening its mandate. At the same time, additional measures to enable the RCARO for undertaking its mandate will be further considered, when needed.
- Basic functions of the RCARO include increasing; awareness of the RCA in regional and international communities, seeking and promoting partnership

cooperation with other regional and international organizations with particular emphasis on expanding financial and other resources available to the RCA programs.

- The RCARO will further strengthen regional endeavors for nuclear knowledge enhancement and preservation through the new initiatives such as the Post-doctoral Fellowship Training Program, the Master's Courses for Nuclear and Quantum Engineering and for Nuclear Policy Makers, and the Nuclear Medicine Internship Training Program.

## **IV. Work Plan for 2003**

### **1. Building Operational Basis**

#### **(1) Provision of Legal and Administrative Matters**

- Adoption of the RCA-GCM Resolution regarding the establishment and operation of the RCARO by the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting in Vienna in September 2003
- Modification of the Working Paper on the Establishment and Operation of the RCARO that was endorsed by the 31st RCA General Conference Meeting in Vienna in September 2002

#### **(2) Operation of the Advisory Committee (Interim) of the RCA Regional Office**

- A six-member Advisory Committee was established at the 24th Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Korea in March 2002. The Members are Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Korea and the IAEA/RCA Coordinator. Australia and Korea were requested to take the lead in drafting and reviewing necessary documents for the RCARO. The Advisory Committee has also to review the Work Plan of the RCARO during the interim operational period.
- The Advisory Committee convened in May 2003 in Sri Lanka in connection with the 25th Meeting of National RCA Representatives and will meet again in Vienna in September 2003 in conjunction with the 32nd RCA General Conference Meeting. Additional meetings can also be arranged whenever needed.
- After completion of the interim operational period, the Advisory Committee will be developed into a board-type Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) as agreed at the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Korea in March 2002.

#### **(3) IAEA Fellowship Attachment**

- As described in the 'Working Paper on the Establishment of the RCARO in Korea', it is requested that the IAEA would support attachment of Fellow(s) to the RCARO from the Member States under its national fellowship

- program.
- Since the RCARO has very limited human resources, particularly for fulfilling its mandate to increase awareness of the RCA and to promote better partnerships with other regional and international organizations, it is needed the Member States to support the RCARO to this effect.
  - The main duties of the Fellow(s) will be to support the RCARO's effort for increased information networking among the Member States and with other regional and international organizations. The Fellow(s) can also improve administration and management skills through participation in the RCARO's activities. The attachment can benefit the Member States in developing human resources and also achieving better management of RCA.
  - Initial contact has been made between the RCARO and the IAEA-TC Country Officers and the IAEA/RCA Coordinator. The IAEA expressed its intention to contemplate this request. The RCARO hopes to have the IAEA Fellow(s) at the earliest possible time, hopefully from the latter part of 2003. Duration of the attachment(s) is hoped to be 3-6 months.
  - In addition, the RCARO hopes to obtain Cost-free Expert(s) or Cost-free Consultant(s) from the Member State(s) to support and give advice on the RCARO's program activities.

## **2. Participation in the RCA 2005-06 Program Upstream Work**

- In an effort to ensure the future mission of the RCARO in carrying out mandate functions, the RCARO will participate in the upstream work for 2005-06 RCA program and assist the Lead Countries in project designing.
- In this regard, the RCARO prepared a 'Position Paper' for consideration and observation by the MSs and the Agency.
- The RCARO plans to participate in the 'Regional Workshop on National Planning, Selection and Design of the IAEA TC Projects' in which RCA Lead Country Coordinators are also requested to participate.

### **[RCARO Position Paper]**

- The RCARO prepared a 'Position Paper' (draft) that would suggest rational approach to future year RCA program based on the Member States' perspective. Current RCA operational and managerial matters including proper evaluation were also reviewed.
- The Office wishes to develop action plans needed for a futuristic mission-oriented RCA program.
- The RCARO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) supported to prepare the draft. The TAC generally looked over the future direction of the RCA on a Member States' view.
- May 2003: The draft 'Position Paper' was reviewed by Advisory Committee of the RCARO. The Office also had advice on the 'Position Paper' by international experts. The draft 'Position Paper' was circulated to the National RCA Representatives for their perusal and comments. On 25 May

2003 the Advisory Committee meeting that was held in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka again reviewed the draft 'Position Paper' before tabling on the main session.

- June 2003: The RCARO will again request the Advisory Committee to review the draft 'Position Paper' that reflected comments from the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National RCA Representatives. The RCARO will also confer with IAEA on this matter.
- July 2003: The RCARO will report the 'Position Paper' to the RCA LCC meeting.
- September 2003: The RCARO will report the 'Position Paper' to the 32<sup>nd</sup> RCA General Conference Meeting.

### **3. Nuclear Knowledge Preservation and Enhancement Programs**

#### **(1) Post-doctoral Fellowship Training Program for 2003**

- The RCARO initiated the RCA Post-doctoral Fellowship Training Program in March 2002 in an effort to enhance and preserve nuclear knowledge in the region.
- At present, there are a total of 13 fellowship trainees have been attached to various nuclear related institutions in Korea under the first year program.
- Announcement for the second year program has been circulated in January 2003 for application. The second year program will be implemented from May 2003. A total 6 fellowship trainees have been selected.

#### **(2) Master's Degree Courses for Nuclear Energy and Quantum Engineering and for Nuclear Policy Establishment for 2003**

- In the latter part of 2002, the RCARO also initiated an RCA Master's Degree Courses in nuclear energy and quantum engineering and for nuclear policy makers. The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) is the host of the courses.
- The second year announcement was circulated in January 2003. This year's courses will begin from September. 3 fellows have been finally selected.

#### **(3) Nuclear Medicine Internship Training Program for 2003**

- The RCARO will initiate the Nuclear Medicine Internship Training Program hosted by the Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences (KIRAMS) in Seoul. The program is financially supported by the KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency).
- Program announcement will be circulated in early June 2003 for application by August. The program will commence in October for 3 practical weeks. The program will be carried out annually.
- After completion of the program, it is planned that a diagnostic and therapeutic networking will be established among the participating Member States.

## **4. RCA Awareness Increasing Programs**

### **(1) Information Flow Program through Internet (RCARO Homepage Operation)**

- The RCARO Homepage was opened in June 2002 with the address of [www.rcaro.org](http://www.rcaro.org). The homepage recently has been significantly upgraded and renovated. The Homepage is intended to increase the public awareness of the RCA and provide latest information to the Member States.
- The RCARO requested all RCA Member States and related organizations to link RCARO homepage to their respective homepages.
- The homepage will also be linked with national RCA homepages of the Member States. This will enable the RCARO homepage further to link with national nuclear related organizations of each Member State.
- The Office has an intention to support RCA's nuclear knowledge enhancement and preservation endeavors through effective use of modern communication systems. The RCARO hopes to play an important role as the hub-site for RCA e-learning program in the near future.
- The RCARO staff will participate in the 'IAEA/RCA Project Meeting to develop RRU Database and Nuclear Medicine E-Learning System' that will be held in Daejeon, Korea from 1-4 July 2003.

### **(2) Publication Program**

- The RCARO recently published a brochure. The brochure will be used for increasing RCA awareness to the RCA stakeholders including potential project partners. CD-Roms will also be produced.
- The Office will produce an RCA Information Kit. The Kit will basically be used for all RCA event participants to improve their knowledge about the RCA. The Information Kit can also be used whenever there is a need.
- The RCARO plans to provide 'RCARO 2002 Annual Report' for inclusion in the RCA 2002 Annual Report that will be published by the host country of the 25th RCA NRM.
- The RCARO plans to collect necessary information on the current status of the uses of nuclear techniques in the Member States. The information will be compiled in the Office's databank for further upgrading and will serve for the need of the Member States.
- The information will include national policy on nuclear energy, nuclear-related organizations of the Member States with major facilities and so on.

### **(3) RCA Briefing Meetings with the Third Party Alleys**

- On 14 March 2003 in Seoul, the RCARO had a briefing meeting with 16 representatives from the diplomatic missions of the RCA Member States stationed in Korea. At the meeting, the Office advertised the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of

National RCA Representatives and also explained on-going RCA programs. The Agency's TC Strategies were also introduced

- The RCARO's new initiatives for nuclear knowledge enhancement and preservation endeavors were highlighted.. A routine communication networking between the missions in Korea and the RCARO is considered to function.
- The RCARO had a briefing meeting with local nuclear related industries on 9 May 2003 in Seoul with the belief that the industries' involvement in RCA programs would greatly contribute to the benefit of the Member States.
- The Office also plans to have a meeting with representatives from regional and international organizations (UNDP, etc.) stationed in Korea in June 2003.

#### **(4) Meetings with RCA Project Participants of Member States**

- The Office plans to have roving briefing meetings in the Member State with RCA project participants of the country. The Office had the first such meeting in Bangkok (OAP) in December 2002. The Office plans to have the next meeting in Hanoi in October 2003.
- The main purpose of the meeting in the Member States is to exchange views on the Office's activities.

### **5. Partnerships Increasing Programs**

#### **1. Cooperation with UNESCAP**

- A cooperative program between RCARO and UNESCAP is being actively considered. The RCARO representatives participated in the UNESCAP's environmental session in Bangkok in December 2002. The UNESCAP is now preparing a draft of the MOU.
- A Forum to identify cooperative areas and tools is planned in the near future. The UNESCAP suggested hazardous waste management for practical cooperation.

#### **2. Cooperation with UNU**

- Cooperation with UN University in Tokyo is also being considered. Initial contact will be made between RCARO and UNU in October in Japan.

#### **3. Cooperation with other Regional/International Organizations**

- Effort to increase partnerships with other regional and international organizations will be continuously pursued to enable more dedicated work of the RCARO when enters into mandate function.
- Initial contact will be made with UNICEF, WHO, APO, FNCA and other organizations functioning in the region with particular emphasis on food, environment and energy programs.

#### **4. Representation of National RCA Representatives/Experts of MSs in RCA related Meetings in the Region on behalf of the Regional Office**

- The RCARO plans to request other RCA National Representatives or senior experts of the Member States to represent at RCA related meetings to be held in his/her respective country on RCARO's behalf. Main mission of such representation will be increasing RCA viability before international organizations.
- The representation is particularly needed when the Director of the RCARO finds it difficult to participate individually in such meetings in the region.

#### **5. Cooperation with KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency)**

- New cooperative programs between KOICA and the Office are being considered. Possible areas will be radiation protection training program, expert mission to the Member States in nuclear technology in general, and feasibility study on the introduction of advanced nuclear medicine equipment to the Member States. When agreed, new programs will be initiated in 2004.
- KOICA is now supporting the Nuclear Medicine Internship Training Program for 2003. This program will continue for another few years.

### **V. Internal Provisions**

#### **1. Operation of RCA RO Technical Advisory Committee**

- The RCARO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was organized in January 2003 mainly with Korean experts representing each RCA Thematic Sector. The 7-member Committee will provide advice on technical matters of the RCARO
- The first work undertaken by the TAC was to give advice on the draft Position Paper based on their experience in the RCA programs. It is hoped that the members could give a balanced view on the RCA programs apart from Korea's own view.

#### **2. Operation of Technical Consultant Body**

- The Office established a 'Technical Consultant Body' in May 2003. Consultants will mainly advise on the RCA future strategies. The RCARO invited 2 consultants to Korea in May 2003. They reviews the draft Position Paper.

#### **3. Additional Staffing**

- In January 2003, the Office additionally hired two more supporting staff. One is a web-master responsible for operation of the RCARO Internet homepage.

